

(a) whether there is a gap between the creation and utilisation of irrigation potential in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cumulative gap between creation and utilisation of irrigation potential till the end of Seventh Plan Period was 8,32 milli on hectares.

(c) The Government is implementing the Command Area Development programme for reducing the gap between potential created and utilised and has also taken a series of measures for improving water management practices to bridge the gap. In addition, the States have also been asked to re-appraise the figure of potential created in order to correct over-reporting if any.

[Translation]

**Branch Post Offices in Panchayats of Bihar—**

**5138. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MERTTA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Panchayats of Hazaribagh district in Bihar where branch post offices have been set up and the number of Panchayats where such post offices are yet to be set up; and

(b) the time by which the Government propose to set up branch post offices in the remaining Panchayats?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):** (a) the number of Panchayats of Hazaribagh district in Bihar where branch post offices have been set up is 281 and the number of Panchayats without post offices is 113.

(b) It is not feasible to indicate any time frame in this regard as post offices in rural areas are sanctioned keeping in view the population, income and distance norms. Gram Panchayat, Headquarters are, however, given due weightage for location of post offices subject to fulfilment of prescribed norms.

**Tourist facilities on Occasion of "Singheshth Kumbh"**

**5139. SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIA:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state the details of assistance and tourists facilities being provided by the Union Government on the occasion of 'Singheshth Kumbh' festival likely to be held in April, 1992 at Ujjain?

**THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA):** Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Department of Tourism provides central financial assistance on specific proposals in consultation with the State Governments, subject to availability of funds, their merit and inter-se priority.

In connection with the Singheshth Kumbh festival scheduled to be held in April, 1992 at Ujjain, the Central Department of Tourism has sanctioned a 60 bedded Yatri Niwas to be constructed at Ujjain for which an amount of Rs. 45.00 lakhs has been sanctioned during 1990-91. Besides Rs. 10.00 lakhs has been sanctioned for printing of publicity